

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 USIE-00 L-03 AID-05 IGA-02  
OMB-01 TRSE-00 SP-02 EB-07 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00  
/060 W

-----042049Z 001789 /41

O 041945Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 536

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 2152

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARIES TODMAN AND DUFFEY FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SCUL, DR  
SUBJECT: CULTURAL INITIATIVES

REF: STATE 096982

1. AS INDICATED PARA C AND D  
S.D. 2068, WE HEARTILY ENDORSE EFFORTS  
TO EXPAND AND DEVELOP US CULTURAL EXCHANGES WITH LATIN AMERICA.

2. FACED WITH LIMITED AVAILABILITY OF OFFICIAL FUNDS, THIS  
EMBASSY DURING LAST SEVERAL YEARS HAS DRAWN ON PRIVATE  
SOURCES, ENLISTED COOPERATION OF GODR AND PROVIDED FACILITATIVE  
ASSISTANCE FOR A VARIETY OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES, SUCH  
AS PROMOTING VISITS OF PRESTIGIOUS US SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS TO THE  
DR; FINDING PRIVATE SPONSORS IQOF VISITS BY UNDERPRIVILEGED  
DOMINISBN BOYS TO "BIG LEAGUE" SPRING TRAINING CAMPS; AND BRINGING  
TO THE DR US PROFESSIONAL, COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL  
BASEBALL, SOFTBALL, RUGBY AND BASKETBALL TEAMS. THESE ACTIVITIES  
HAVE GENERATED CONSIDERABLE GOOD WILL FOR PRIVATE AMERICAN AND  
DOMINICAN COMPANIES PARTICIPATING WHILE FOSTERING FAVORABLE  
ATTITUDES TOWARD US.

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3. EMBASSY HAS FOUND THE GODR, ITS INSTITUTIONS AND PRIVATE  
AMERICAN AND DONICAN FIRMS WILLING TO ASSIST IN SUCH PROGRAMS WHEN  
PERSUADED THAT THTTZARE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TO BOTH COUNTRIES OR  
HEIGHTEN COMMUNITY IMAGE OF SPONSORING COMPANIES. UNDER THE "OPER-  
ATION SHOESTRING" PROGRAM, INITIATED BY AMBASSADOR URWITCH, FUNDS  
HAVE BEEN RAISED FROM LOCAL AMERICAN AND DOMINCAN COMPANIES AND

VARIOUS SERVICES OBTAINED FROM HOST GOVERNMENT AND INSTITUTIONS TO  
ENABLE PROVISION OF QUALITY US CULTURAL PROGRAMMING IN THE DR BEYOND  
THE SCOPE OF AVAILABLE EMBASSY FINANCING. TO ILLUSTRATE THE COOPER-  
ATIVE EFFORT OF AN "OPERATION SHOESTRING" PROJECT LAST YEAR:  
THE NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OF WASHINGTON, D.C., SPENT A  
WEEK IN THE COUNTRY, WITH TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM WASHINGTON  
PGAIDED BY HOST GOVERNMENT, FOOD AND LODGING BY GULF & WESTERN,  
AND REMAINDER FINANCED BY AMERICAN/DOMINICAN COMPANIES AND BOX  
OFFICE RECEIPTS. THIS FORMULA INVOLVING A VARIETY OF AMERICAN/  
DOMINICAN PRIVATE COMPANIES AND HOST GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS  
TOGETHER WITH USG SUPPORT IN THE FORM OF FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE--  
NOT FINANCIAL. HOWEVER, IT REQUIRES CONSIDERABLE PERSONAL  
INVOLVEMENT OF THE AMBASSADOR IN APPROACHES TO DIRECTORS OF PRIVATE  
COMPANIES, INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS. WE ARE CURRENTLY  
ASSESSING WHETHER TO RECOMMEND ADDITIONAL USIS OFFICER TO ASSIST  
AMBASSADOR IN THE FACILITATIVE SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUCH  
PROJECTS.

4. OUR PROFESSIONAL  
SEMINAR PROGRAM HAS PROVED A MOST EFFECTIVE WAY  
OF ENGAGING DOMINICANS  
IN VARIOUS FIELDS IN MEANINGFUL EXCHANGES  
WITH OUTSTANDING AMERICAN INTELLECTUALS. FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS  
USIS SANTO DOMINGO, THROUGH A CU GRANT, HAS PROGRAMMED ANNUALLY A  
PROFESSIONAL SEMINAR ON CONTEMPORARY US, OFFICIALLY SPONSORED BY  
BNC AND TY LOCAL EX-GRANTEE ASSOCIATION. THE WEEK-LONG SEMINAR,  
FEATURING NINE AMERICAN PROFESSORS, HAS ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE  
FAVORABLE COMMENT AMONG DOMINICAN INTELLECTUALS AND MEDIA.(  
DETAILS ARE PROVIDED IN S.D. A-47.  
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5. STIMULATION AND EXPANSION OF EXISTING PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE PROGRAMS  
SHOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED AMONG POSSIBILITIES OF INCREASING UNDER-  
STANDING BETWEEN LATIN AMERICA AND THE US. IN THE DR, MICHIGAN  
PARTNERS HAVE BEEN HELPFUL IN PROVIDING MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR SPORTS  
AND OTHER PROGRAMS. THE SISTER CITIES PROGRAM (SARATOGA-SANTO  
DOMINGO), NOW MANAGED ENTIRELY BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES, HAS NOT BEEN  
ACTIVE BUT WITH GREATER ENCOURAGEMENT IT OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
INCREASED MEANINGFUL EXCHANGES TOUCHING ALL SOCIAL LEVELS.

6. IF MORE OFFICIAL FUNDS WERE MADE AVAILABLE, POST BELIEVES THAT  
EXPANSION OF GROUP VISITS TO US OF YOUNG DOMINICAN LEADERS IN  
VARIOUS EMPLOYMENTS  
PLDYSW  
WOULD SERVE US OBJECTIVES. FIRSTHAND EXPOSURE OF US  
INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIAL FIBER TO POLITICIANS, ACADEMICIANS,  
ECONOMISTS, INTELLECTUALS OF ALL POLITICAL PERSUASION, PARTICULARLY  
THOSE WITH NEGATIVE ATTITUDES TOWARD US,  
WOULD HELP PROVIDE MORE

BALANCED AND SYMPATHETIC VIEW OF AMERICAN SOCIETY.

7. TO FURTHER OUR CULTURAL EXCHANGE PURPOSES, WE SUGGEST THAT ALL MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECTS BE FUNDED BY WASHINGTON SO AS TO ALLOW INDIVIDUAL POSTS OPPORTUNITY TO REACH TARGETS WITH SPECIFIC INTEREST AND TO CONTINUE WITH AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF INDIVIDUAL IV GRANTS. WE FIND MANY OF THESE MULTI-NATIONAL PROJECTS WORTHWHILE BUT THEY REPRESENT TOO GREAT A DRAIN ON OUR LIMITED RESOURCES FOR US TO PARTICIPATE AS DESIRED. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY DESERVING CONSIDERATION IS INCREASING THE NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FOREIGN GRADUATE LEVEL STUDENTS (E.G. BEYOND THE CURRENT LASPAU PROGRAM). WHILE EXPENSIVE, THESE PROGRAMS BUILD AN INFLUENTIAL AUDIENCE WITH CLOSE TIES TO AND SOLID KNOWLEDGE OF THE UNITED STATES.

8. WHILE EMPHASIS IS OFTEN PLACED ON THE DISPARATENESS OF THE COU  
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ASVZ IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION, THEY DO HAVE THE COMMON FEATURE OF DOMINANT OR SUBSTANTIAL BLACK POPULATIONS IN VARYING PROPORTIONS. GIVEN THE STRONG RENEWED INTEREST OF AMERICAN BLACKS IN THEIR OWN HERITAGE, STIMULATED GREATLY BY THE IMPACT OF THE NOVEL "ROOTS" AND BY VARIOUS US UNIVERSITY AND OTHER INSTITUTIONAL STUDIES, WE MIGHT SEEK TO FOSTER A GREATER APPRECIATION OF THE COMMON AFRICAN-HERITAGE OF PEOPLES IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE UNITED STATES  
BENEATH THE OVERLAY OF AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN CULTURES. TO THIS END WE MIGHT BRING TOGETHER MANY CARIBBEAN INTELLECTUALS IN COLLECTIVE ENDEAVORS, SUCH AS SEMINARS, JOINT STUDIES AND CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS.

AXELROD

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE AS RECEIVED.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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